

OPINION 1912

Pseudofoenus Kieffer, 1902 (Insecta, Hymenoptera): *Foenus unguiculatus* Westwood, 1841 designated as the type species

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Hymenoptera; GASTERUPTIIDAE; parasitic wasps; *Pseudofoenus*; *Pseudofoenus unguiculatus*; New Zealand.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Pseudofoenus* Kieffer, 1902 are hereby set aside and *Foenus unguiculatus* Westwood, 1841 is designated as the type species.
- (2) The name *Pseudofoenus* Kieffer, 1902 (gender: masculine), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above *Foenus unguiculatus* Westwood, 1841, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *unguiculatus* Westwood, 1841, as published in the binomen *Foenus unguiculatus* (specific name of the type species of *Pseudofoenus* Kieffer, 1902) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2950

An application for the designation of *Foenus unguiculatus* Westwood, 1841 as the type species of *Pseudofoenus* Kieffer, 1902 was received from Drs A.D. Austin & J.T. Jennings (*The University of Adelaide, South Australia, Australia*) and Dr M.S. Harvey (*Western Australian Museum, Perth, Western Australia, Australia*) on 9 September 1994. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 53: 261–263 (December 1996). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

An opposing comment from Dr R.W. Crosskey (*The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) was published in BZN 54: 185–186 (September 1997), together with a reply by the authors of the application. Dr Crosskey suggested retaining *Gasteruption pedunculatum* Schletterer, 1889 as the type species of *Pseudofoenus* but, by designating a neotype, fixing it as a junior synonym of *Foenus unguiculatus* Westwood, 1841. The authors considered that this artificial allocation of a taxonomic meaning to *G. pedunculatum* would serve no real purpose and that there would be no disadvantage in *pedunculatum* remaining as a name of undefined application since, inevitably, it would be a junior synonym.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1998 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 53: 262–263. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1998 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 15: Bock, Bouchet, Brothers, Cocks, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Mähner, Mawatari, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song

Negative votes — 7: Cogger, Kabata, Kerzhner, Kraus, Martins de Souza, Minelli and Štys.

Dupuis and Lehtinen abstained.

No vote was received from Macpherson.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Voting against, Cogger commented: 'The proposed solution is unsatisfactory because it leaves *Gasteruption pedunculatum* (a nomen dubium) unresolved. The applicants argue (BZN 54: 187) that 'it is inevitably invalid as a junior synonym of either *Foenus unguiculatus* or of *F. crassipes*' simply because the most recent taxonomic revision recognises only two taxonomic species in the genus *Pseudofoenus*. Consequently the proposal ensures that *pedunculatum*, as a nomen dubium, continues to have the potential to disturb nomenclatural stability in the future. Further, as a nomen dubium it clearly cannot be assigned with confidence to the synonymy of either of the currently recognised taxonomic species, and it is senior to one of the nominal species (*P. nocticolor* Kieffer, 1911) in the genus. There appears to be no dispute as to the identity of *F. unguiculatus* and its presumed holotype, and Dr Crosskey's final suggestions (to set aside the existing presumed syntype of *pedunculatus* and designate the holotype of *unguiculatus* as the neotype of *pedunculatus*) would fix *Pseudofoenus* in its accustomed usage'. Kerzhner commented: 'As there is no doubt that *pedunculatus* belongs in *Pseudofoenus* and there is no intention to place the two taxonomic species of *Pseudofoenus* in different genera or subgenera, *pedunculatus* may function as the type species of the genus. The probability exists of the subsequent discovery of additional surviving syntype(s) or of additional characters by which to distinguish males'. Kraus commented: 'I vote against the application because I feel that the arguments put forward by Dr R.W. Crosskey are important and because the applicants did not provide any information on the usage of the names concerned'. Abstaining, Lehtinen commented: 'Solving problems arising from inadequate taxonomic knowledge is not a task for the Commission. There was no need for an application or decision as long as specialists cannot correlate the males and females of the five recognized nominal species from New Zealand'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Pseudofoenus Kieffer, 1902, Hymenoptera, Fam. Evaniidae in Wytzman, P. (Ed.), *Genera Insectorum*, fascicle 2, p. 6.
unguiculatus, *Foenus*, Westwood, 1841, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 7: 537.